

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05010 261502Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /030 W

----- 041440

R 261417Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4138

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

UNCLAS KUWAIT 5010

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP: KU

SUBJECT: MARYLAND STATE IOGA TRADE MISSION

REF: A. STATE A-3831. B. STATE 26516. C. KUWAIT 3593

1. EMBOFF HAS AGAIN CONTACTED GOK OFFICIALS CONCERNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS OF SUBJECT MISSION. AS WE NOTED IN REF (C), POTENTIAL FOR CONSTRUCTION/ENGINEERING FIRMS WILL BE LIMITED BECAUSE MOST OF NEW MAJOR HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION WILL BE UNDERWAY BEFORE ARRIVAL OF MISSION. GOK UNDERSECRETARY OF HEALTH HAS MENTIONED VAGUE PLANS FOR FOUR MORE HOSPITALS WHICH, WITH FIVE IN VARIOUS PHASES OF PLANNING OR CONSTRUCTION, WOULD MEAN NINE NEW HOSPITALS IN A COUNTRY OF LESS THAN ONE MILLION PEOPLE. TO REPEAT EARLIER WARNING, WE CAN NOT RPT NOT GUARANTEE THAT MISSION WILL FIND IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITIES SINCE NINE NEW HOSPITALS SEEMS IMPRACTICAL VIEW OF CURRENT NEEDS.

2. REF A MENTIONED PRESENCE OF MEDICAL INSTRUMENT SUPPLIERS ON TEAM BUT IT APPEARS ONLY ONE SUCH COMPANY NOW INCLUDED. WE SUGGEST MISSION DIRECTOR BRING ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON MARYLAND'S MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS FOR EMBASSY COMMERCIAL LIBRARY.

3. TURNKEY APPROACH OFFERED BY MISSION SEEMS TO BE BEST APPROACH
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 05010 261502Z

FOR KUWAIT IN HOSPITAL FIELD. THIS HAS ALSO PROVED EFFECTIVE

IN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS HOUSING. IF ANY FIRMS ON SUBJECT MISSION HAVE HOUSING EXPERIENCE, EMBASSY WILL TRY ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAIN FORCE BEHIND KUWAIT'S 6,000 UNIT-PER-YEAR PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM.

4. PLEASE REMIND MISSION ADVANCE MAN GATCH THAT DEC. 13 THROUGH 15 IS SCHEDULED LOCAL HOLIDAY (I'D AL-ADHA). TOGETHER WITH PRECEDING WEEKEND, LOCAL BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR FOUR AND ONE HALF CONSECUTIVE DAYS.

5. GOVERNMENT PLANNING TEAM MEETING NOW TO DISCUSS POLICY ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOSPITALS. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO REPORT MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS BY TIME GATCH ARRIVES IF NOT SOONER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUWAIT05010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750412-1054
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975118/aaaaaghk.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE A-3831, 75 STATE 26516, 75 KUWAIT 3593
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARYLAND STATE IOGA TRADE MISSION
TAGS: BEXP, KU
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006